



**Justice and Peace Scotland**

*Ceartas agus Sith*

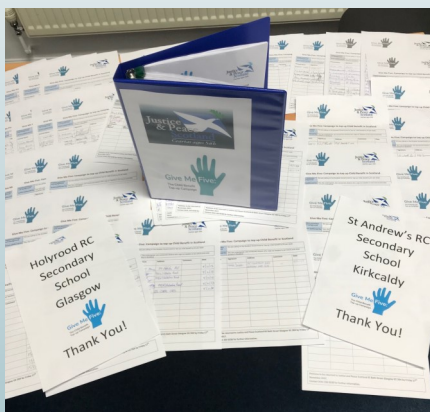
# Justice and Peace Scotland

## Caritas Award Campaign Update

Caritas students across the country engaged with issues of child poverty, and helped us collect signatures to support the Give Me Five campaign – calling on the Scottish government to use their powers to provide an extra £5 per child, per week to the universal child benefit, as a first step to eliminating poverty by 2030.



### Since we submitted the petitions:



- The independent Poverty and Inequality Commission have published their [advice to the Scottish Government on the child poverty delivery plan](#), including on potential of powers to top up benefits. They agree with us that Scotland needs to use its social security powers to top up family benefits, and are still discussing the best way to do this.

- The Scottish Labour party agreed with Give Me Five; and pressed for this to be included in the Social Security Bill. They weren't successful both because there isn't a majority in Parliament

supporting Give Me 5, but also as there were discussions as to if the specifics of how the support would be delivered should be in the Bill. But it did mean there was a very good debate and it helps keep the pressure up. This can be read [here](#), on the Scottish Parliament website.

- Give Me Five was raised by Bishop Joseph Toal (Bishop of Motherwell) and Anthony Horan (Catholic Parliamentary Office) at a meeting with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in March

### Message from John Dickie – Director, Child Poverty Action Group

“I would like to say to all Caritas students that their work has played an important role in raising awareness of the issues of child poverty, and the potential of the child benefit top up. They have also helped to ensure that topping up benefits is being advocated not just by the GM5 campaign, but by the independent experts at on the Poverty and Inequality Commission.”

Contact us:

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[www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk](http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk)



## So what happens next?

The campaign goes on! As a country Scotland has committed to eradicating poverty by 2030, and Justice and Peace Scotland, along with all our partners in the Give Me Five coalition will continue to push the government to make this happen.

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."

- St. Catherine of Sienna

**Thankyou to all the students, school staff, and parishes who have supported Give Me Five through the Caritas Award.**

Justice and Peace Scotland is the Bishops' Conference of Scotland Commission with responsibility for human rights, social justice, and peacebuilding, promoting care for creation, and integral human development. Along with members of parish and diocesan Justice and Peace groups the team at the national office are available to all schools to help promote Catholic Social Teaching, support schools with engagement in social justice and peacebuilding, and formation of both staff and students in living the values of the Gospel in their local communities.

### Resources and Upcoming Events

#### #WeeklyCST

Resource from Justice and Peace Scotland, providing a weekly quote from Catholic Social Thought themed to match either the Mass scripture, or a significant social justice event in the coming week. A document with all the CST quotes for 2018 is available [here](#). These are great for schools to use for reflection and inspiration at the start of the week. Also available is a series of pictures containing the quotes for school websites.

#### SCANA Pentecost Witness

SCANA (Scottish Christians Against Nuclear Arms) will be holding their annual Pentecost witness against nuclear arms on 26th May, including prayer, song, symbolic action and a picnic. We will be attending with Bishop Nolan and other faith leaders from across Scotland. Staff, students and families are all welcome.

For more details contact John Harvey  
[jonmol@phoncoop.coop](mailto:jonmol@phoncoop.coop)

#### Remembering Hiroshima—Origami Cranes

A project from the [Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre](#), origami cranes are being made as part of a national display intended to be held in the Scottish Parliament building. More information can be found [here](#). Or contact [origamicranes@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:origamicranes@peaceandjustice.org.uk)

#### Maria Skobtsova Catholic Worker House

Members of Justice and Peace Scotland visited Calais before Christmas, joining with the community in the work they do to support vulnerable people in northern France. More information can be found [here](#).

A series of videos by the Anglican Bishopric in Europe looking at the work of the house are available [here](#).

Any schools interested in learning more about Calais should contact Danny (details on page1).

#### Schools' Interfaith Day Conference

The Bishops' Committee for Interreligious Dialogue organises a day for schools in preparation of Interfaith Week. For more information on the work of interreligious dialogue, and information on this year's conference please contact [interfaith@bcos.org.uk](mailto:interfaith@bcos.org.uk) or visit their website [here](#).